

ROUTINE HIV TESTING

NIDA

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Research

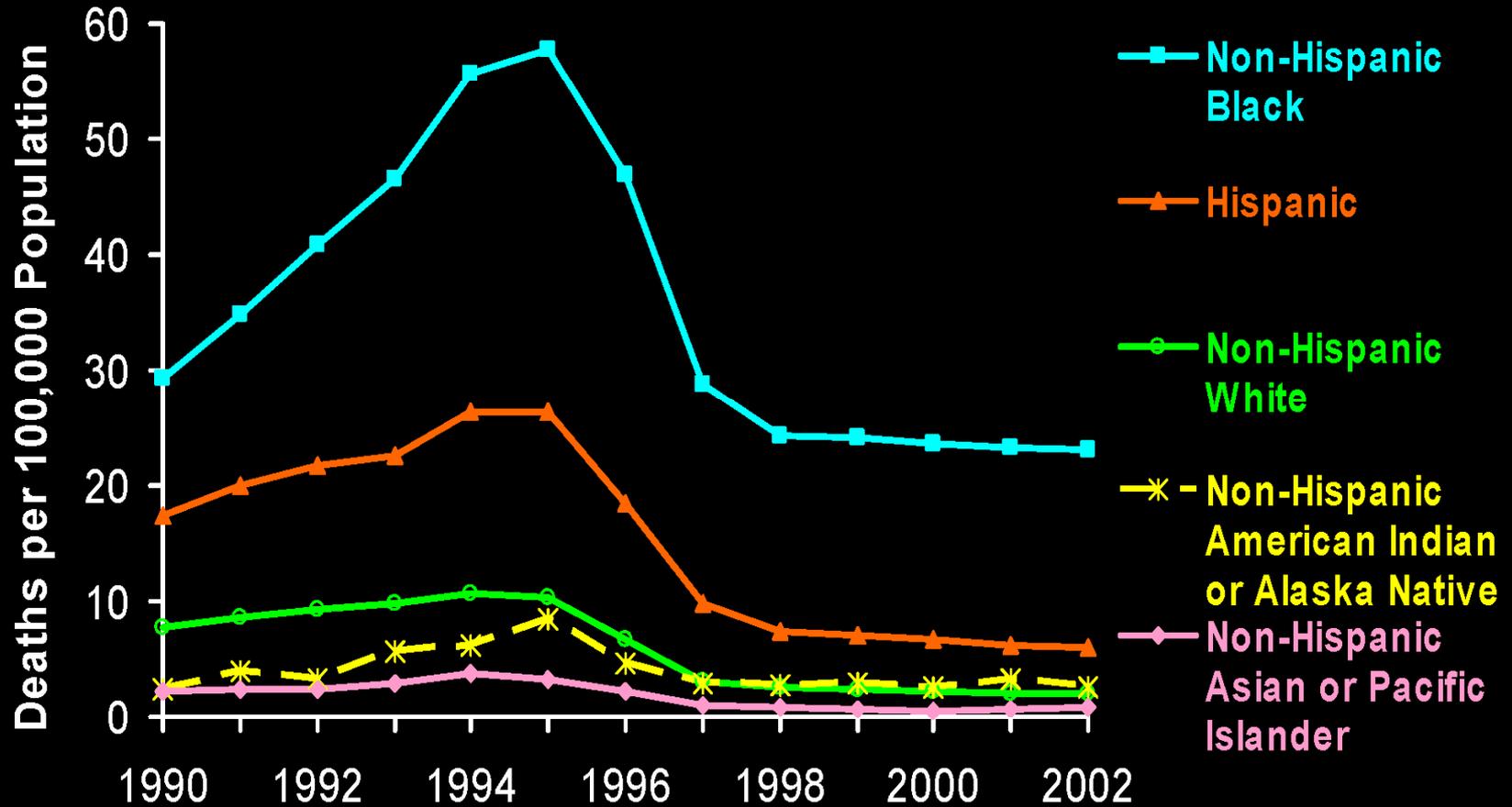
Center for Primary Care and Prevention
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HIV/AIDS BACKGROUND

- ~1.2 million people in the U.S. have HIV
- 25% not aware of serostatus
- Blacks:
 - Represent 43% of people living with AIDS in U.S.
 - Represent 51% of those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS
 - Account for the highest % and rates for heterosexual transmission

Trends in Age-Adjusted* Annual Rates of Death due to HIV Disease by Race/Ethnicity, USA, 1990–2002



Note: For comparison with data for 1999 and later years, data for 1990–1998 were modified to account for ICD-10 rules instead of ICD-9 rules.

*Standard: age distribution of 2000 US population



TAKE HOME POINT

Lack of knowledge of HIV infection can have implications on continued transmission of the virus and ultimately on lost reproductive and economic productivity due to the long-term consequences of untreated disease.

HIV

- Increasing most rapidly among individuals with heterosexual risk who often underestimate their risk.
- Blacks and Hispanics more likely to be tested later in disease course
- Blacks do not live as long as people in other racial or ethnic groups who have AIDS

FORCES BEHIND HIV EPIDEMIC

- Substance use/abuse
- Homophobia
- Stigma
- Poverty
- Racism
- Poor health care (Including mental health)
 - Lack of Education
 - Not knowing up-to-date serostatus
- Sexual Risk Factors
- Incarceration

PRISON STATISTICS

- 1 in 3 black males will serve time in a state or federal prison in their lifetime
- Prevalence of HIV among the incarcerated over five times that of general population

RI INCARCERATION

- Prevalence of HIV in RI penal system– 1.8 – 3.0%
- 1988 General Assembly passed law mandating HIV tests for those sentenced inmates
- 1 out 3 diagnoses of HIV in RI done through the adult correctional institution
- Testing led to improved care and probably decreases transmission

HIV

- Long incubation period
- Potential for devastation if not treated
- Potential for a greatly improved prognosis if early intervention

PRIMARY CARE

- Prevention of disease
- Earlier treatment of disease
- Initial point of contact care
- Continuity of care
- Accessible to people in their communities
- Delivered in:
 - Private offices within communities
 - Community Health Centers
 - Prison health

PCPs

- Deliver the majority of out patient health care
- Account for 54% of office based physicians
- **Emergency room care does not usually include preventive or primary care services**
 - **Trust is harder to develop, esp. in Blacks**
 - **Doesn't empower one to get treatment**

HIV TESTING

- About half (55%) of American adults have been tested for HIV
- Over 67% of HIV tests are performed in either physician offices or health managed organizations (HMOs)

BARRIERS TO TESTING

- Stigma
- Doctors not asking, patients not telling
- Physicians bring their beliefs, attitudes and expectations to the clinical encounter
- Adult pts average between 2 -7 outpatient visits/ year
- Only 38% of pts have talked to their physicians about HIV tests
- Pts are more likely to be HIV tested when offered by their health care providers

PROS

CONS



● Con - May drive people underground

- Not mandatory testing, just systematic routine offering, with informed consent
- Not cost effective
- It is cost effective
- People don't want to know
- Primary care patients want to be tested routinely
- Doesn't eliminate the fear of a positive test result
- Good care - can't treat or prevent if not diagnosed
- May increase suicide/depression
- Give patients chance to protect loved ones
- Allows patient to be in the driver's seat - give them increased options

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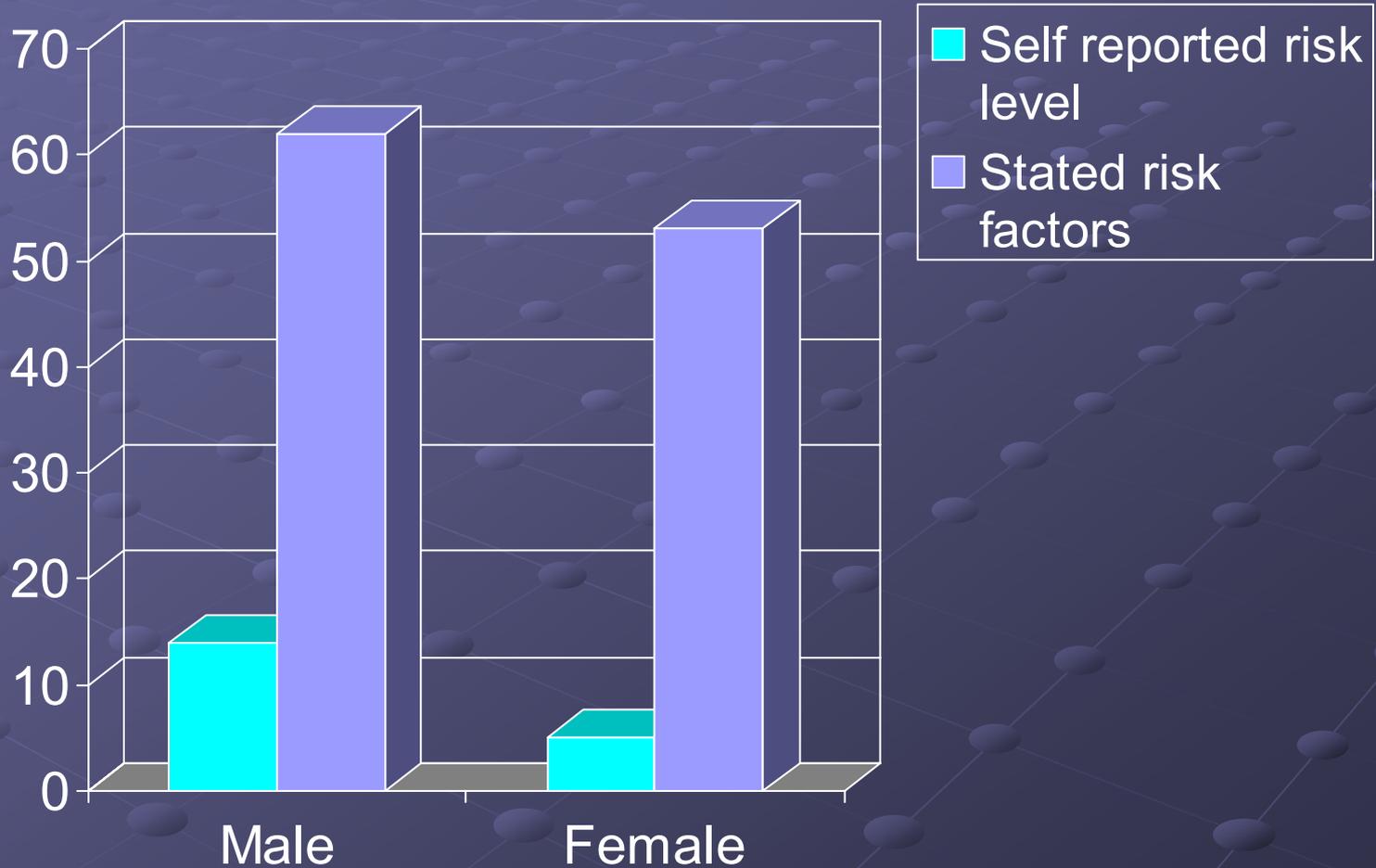
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PRIMARY CARE STUDIES

- Clinics in disadvantaged, predominately Black and Latino communities
 - Mississippi
 - Rhode Island

RISK BEHAVIORS: PERCEPTION VS. REALITY



ROUTINE TESTING

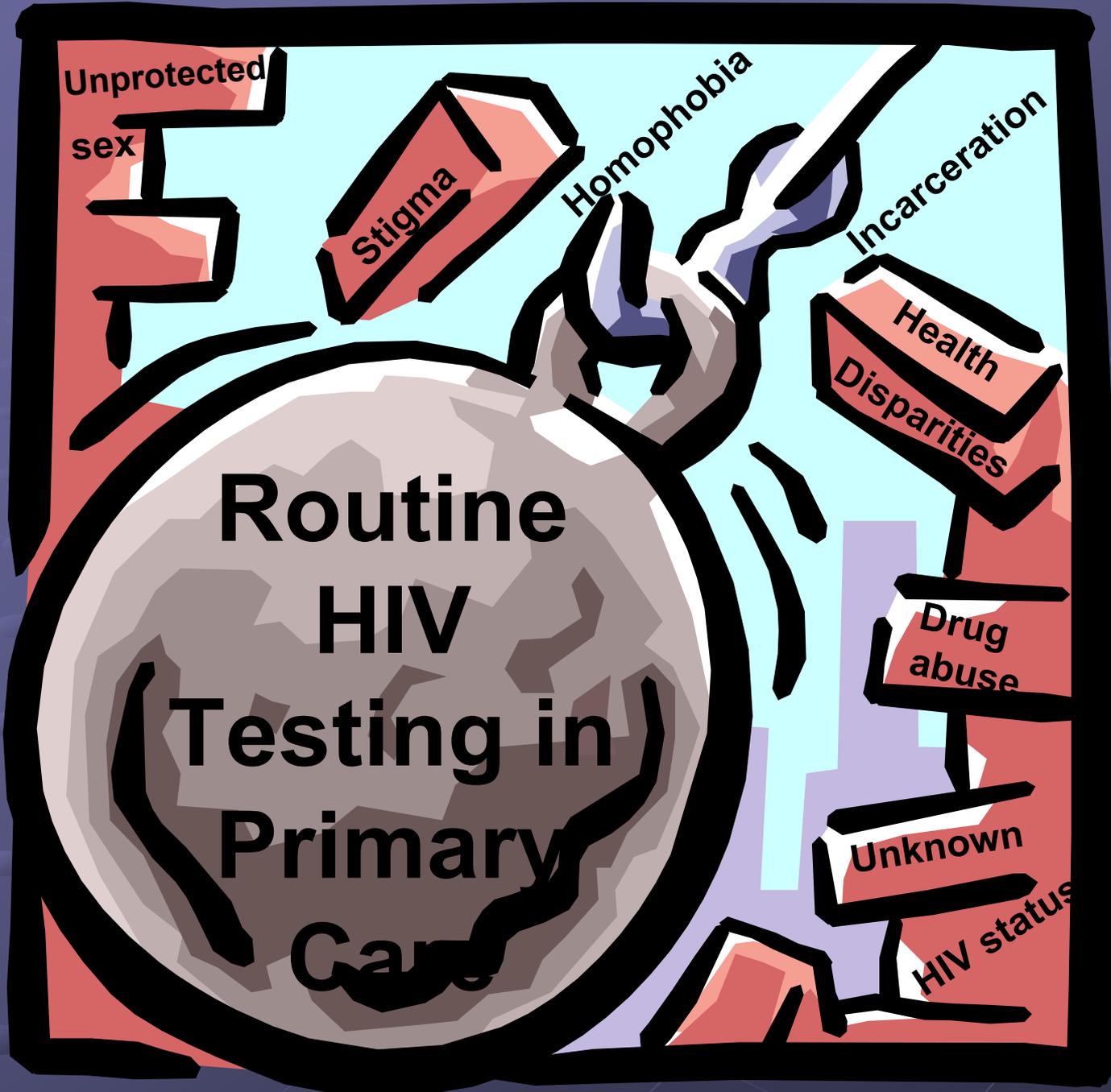
- 86% wanted to be tested regularly
- 75% wanted to be HIV tested either biannually or annually
- 79% wanted their doctor to do testing

PCP MAIL SURVEY

- Most thought primary care site good place for offering HIV counseling and testing in RI and MS
- 93% reported testing their high risk patients
- 37% reported testing their sexually active pts aged 18 to 50
- Our goal is to increase the number of sexually active patients being offered and accepting HIV testing routinely

CONSEQUENCES OF HIV TESTING

- **One-time routine screening for HIV could reduce the annual transmission rate in the United States by approximately twenty percent** (Sanders et al. N Engl J Med 2005; 352(6):570-85)
- **Illicit drug users who have been HIV tested are less likely to have unprotected vaginal sex** (Robles et al, Drugs Soc 1996;9(1-2) 173-84)
- **HIV testing decreases unprotected sexual intercourse** (DiFranceisco W Acquir Immune Deficiency Syndrome 2005;39(5): Fox AIDS 1987; 1:241-6)



Unprotected sex

Stigma

Homophobia

Incarceration

Health Disparities

Drug abuse

Unknown HIV status

HIV status

Routine HIV Testing in Primary Care